

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-17 were pending in the application. By way of this amendment, new claim 18 has been added to further define the invention.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's approval of the drawings as well as the Examiner's consideration of the information cited by Applicants in their Information Disclosure Statements.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments set forth in the section entitled "Claim Objections." The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Independent claims 1, 16 and 17 stand rejected based on Li. Dependent claims 5 and 10-12 also stand rejected.

By way of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to further define the invention. It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 is clearly patentable for at least the following reasons.

In Li, a main lumen is provided (as shown in Figure 1) between the inside wall of cannula 11 and the outside wall of a member 24. This main lumen is not for sensing pressure and indeed cannot sense pressure because a plate 14 provides a barrier between a distal end of the lumen and a proximal end of the lumen. Instead, in Li, a narrow tube 15 is provided to sense pressure via a side hole 40, as shown in Figure 1. Similar narrow tubes are employed in the Figures 5 and 6 embodiments.

Thus, in Li, the main lumen of Li is not for pressure sensing. This is in contrast to the present invention wherein the main lumen is for pressure sensing, as shown, for example, in Figure 4. Independent claim 1 has been amended to structurally define this main lumen and its use as a pressure sensor. Li does not disclose a "pressure sensor, in fluid communication

via the lumen [as defined in the remaining portion of claim 1] with the opening at the distal end.”

It is thus respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over Li.

Independent claim 16 recites a core pin having a portion of reduced diameter such that a channel is formed between an inner wall portion of the introducer portion and an outer portion of the core pin wherein fluid communication is provided to the pressure sensor via the channel. This is shown, for example, in Figure 8 of the present application wherein the space 26 between core pin 27 and introducer 10 runs from the distal end of the device to the proximal end of the device and senses pressure. As indicated above in connection with claim 1, Li does not use the space in between cannula 11 and member 24 to sense pressure and cannot use such a space because of plate 14. Instead, Li uses a narrow tube 15 not the space in between members 11 and 24. Thus, the subject matter of independent claim 16 is not disclosed or suggested by Li.

Similar reasoning applies to claim 17. In addition, claim 17 recites the additional feature that “the channel having an entrance proximal from the distal end of the introducer portion via an opening in the introducer portion.” This feature corresponds to the feature shown in the vicinity of element 28 in Figure 9 of the present application, wherein space 26 between core pin 27A and introducer 10 has an entrance 28. This additional feature is not disclosed or suggested by Li and thus claim 17 is clearly patentable.

Because independent claims 1, 16 and 17 are not disclosed or suggested by Li, these claims, and the associated dependent claims, are clearly patentable.

Independent claim 1, and various dependent claims, stand rejected under § 102 and § 103 as being unpatentable over Edwards. It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 and associated dependant claims, are clearly patentable over Edwards for at least the following reasons.

As indicated above, in the present invention, the main lumen (that is, the lumen in introducer 10) provides fluid communication between the opening at the distal end of the

introducer and a pressure sensor. Claim 1 has been amended to make this more clear. The portion of Edwards corresponding to the claimed introducer portion is sheath 52. The main lumen of sheath 52 is not used as a fluid communication path between the opening at the distal end and the pressure sensor. Instead, in Edwards, a path within another member such as the small tubes connected to side ports 34 shown in Figure 9a is used for pressure sensing. Thus, amended independent claim 1, and associated dependent claims, are clearly patentable over Edwards.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected for obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,682,489. Also, claims 1 and 11-17 are provisionally rejected for double patenting over claims 1-4 of co-pending application 10/798,438. Although the Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer.

Regarding new claim 18, Li does not disclose or suggest at least the claimed channel in a core pin and Edwards does not disclose or suggest at least the claimed pressure sensor adapted to provide a pulsation (this is an important feature as discussed in paragraph 0012 of this application, and is not found in the portions of Edwards cited in the office action).

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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